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Photograph by Richard H. Stewart

THIS DOG HAD HIS DAY PERHAPS BEFORE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

The joint expedition of the National Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institution to Mexico, now in the Tehuantepec Isthmus, in Veracruz, for its third season of exploration, has uncovered numerous relics of the vanished "Olmec" people, who inhabited the region from several centuries before the birth of Christ until some time shortly before the arrival of Columbus. Their culture may have been the base upon which the Maya built a later artistic civilization. Dug up at the village of Tres Zapotes, this clay figurine of an early American dog shows that Olmec pets wore dog collars. Another dog figurine, designed to be pulled along on solid clay disks for wheels, may be the first indication of the use of wheels in the Western Hemisphere prior to the coming of the white man (Bulletin No. 2).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Albania Continues in Historic Battlefield Rôle

WHILE the Greek-Italian pitched battle on Albanian territory is news, there is nothing new in the situation of Albania playing unwilling host to warring armies of its neighbors. Often called the "stepchild of Europe," Albania has been cast by geography in a scapegoat rôle: she has been the arena where Italy, Greece, the northern Balkan peoples, and Turkey could settle their squabbles.

Descendants of one of the oldest races in southeast Europe, the Albanians have stubbornly preserved their racial traits and language despite almost continuous political subjugation of their country by stronger powers.

Ghegs in North and Tosks in South

Tracing their descent from the earliest Aryan immigrants to the Balkans, the Albanians are today divided into two groups—the Ghegs, who live mostly north of the Shkumim River, and the Tosks, living to the south.

In the earliest days of its recorded history, the territory that is now Albania was partitioned between the ancient Grecian kingdom of Illyria in the north and Epirus in the south. Aristotle named Epirus as the original home of the Hellenes. Dodona, then in Albanian-inhabited territory, had the earliest of several famous ancient oracles, and exerted considerable influence through the oracle's responses to the Greek statesmen's queries.

The Molossian chieftains of Epirus claimed direct descent from Pyrrhus, son of Achilles, who supposedly settled in Epirus after the sack of Troy. Proud and domineering Olympias, sister of King Alexander of Epirus, married Philip of Macedon and became the mother of Alexander the Great. After 146 B. C., Epirus became part of the Roman province of Macedonia.

Pirate Queen and Scanderbeg among Notables

A colorful figure of Illyria was the pirate queen Teuta (the "Catherine the Great" of Illyria), whose navy raised such havoc with Adriatic shipping that Rome took to arms for revenge, and Teuta had to sue for peace in 227 B. C.

Albania served as a battlefield for the Caesar-Pompey civil war, and the Battle of Actium between the fleet of Antony and Cleopatra and that of Octavian was fought off shores that were then Albanian-held. Albania became one of the best recruiting grounds for Roman legions. The *Via Egnatia*, great military highway from Rome to Constantinople, crossed Illyria (Rome's province of Illyricum) from Dyracchium (modern Durazzo) to Thessalonike (now in Greece). Through the succeeding Byzantine era, the time of the Crusades, and during the long period of Turkish domination, the *Via Egnatia* remained the only land thoroughfare between Asia and the Adriatic.

In 330 A. D., when the capital of the Roman Empire was transferred from Rome to Constantinople, Albania became a province of the Eastern Empire. From the 5th century on, however, the country suffered invasions by Huns, Gauls, Goths, Slavs, Bulgars, Normans, Venetians, Sicilians, and Turks.

Under George Kastriota, nicknamed "Scanderbeg" (1403-1468), the Albanian national hero, the country became united and fought off the Turks for a generation. But after Scanderbeg's death, Albania passed definitely under Turkish control. The Sultans maintained their suzerainty until 1912.

Throughout the centuries of Moslem domination, Albanians were escaping the rôle of subject people by emigrating to other Mediterranean regions, particularly

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Photograph by Henry B. Collins, Jr.

ESKIMOS HAVE LIVED LARGELY BY THE WHALE, BUT WHAT DID THEIR PREDECESSORS LIVE BY?

A whole community of Eskimos can live for days on the blubber taken from a single whale, reducing any excess fat to oil for use in lamps. The jaw, covered with baleen "strainers" through which the whale obtained its food from sea water, once was a source of additional profit, when the baleen could be sold for corset whalebone. The jaw behind which the four Eskimo girls are standing, however, has little value in the modern whalebone-less world. The historical background of the Eskimos, who now number less than 40,000, has been studied by several recent expeditions to Alaska. Henry B. Collins, Jr., leader of the National Geographic Society-Smithsonian Institution Expedition, found further evidence that the Eskimo migrated into Alaska across Bering Strait, and Dr. F. G. Rainey last year found the site of an Alaskan settlement of pre-Eskimo people (Bulletin No. 2).

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Explorers Made Important Finds in 1940 in Spite of War Menace

THAT there still are interesting rewards for explorers, in a world torn by war, is shown by the National Geographic Society's review of explorations and geographic expeditions in 1940.

Among outstanding archeological finds of the year were five colossal heads carved in human form from basalt, each weighing 15 tons or more. They were unearthed near La Venta in the Tehuantepec Isthmus region of Mexico by a joint expedition of the National Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institution, headed by Matthew W. Stirling. The heads were sculptured about 600 A. D., it is believed.

Solomon's Father-in-Law Excavated in Egypt

This was the second season of work by the expedition. In 1939, near Tres Zapotes, Mr. Stirling and his assistants uncovered a single huge basalt head, numerous figurines (illustration, cover), and a stone bearing the earliest recorded date yet found in the Western Hemisphere. The date has been interpreted as 291 B. C. The expedition now is in the field to carry on its third season of explorations.

The tomb of King Psousennes I at San-el-Hagar, Egypt, gave up many objects equal in value and importance to those found in the tomb of King Tutankhamen, according to the Egyptian Government. The sarcophagus was of solid silver; the mummy's head was enclosed in a mask of pure gold and the body covered with silver gilt. Golden cases for fingers and toes and a pair of golden shoes were found. Many objects bore significant inscriptions. The tomb chamber is a part of the Temple of Rameses at San-el-Hagar. King Psousennes was one of King Solomon's many fathers-in-law.

The ruins of one of the earliest known Christian churches was discovered at Ostia, ancient port of Rome. The building belongs to a period about 150 A. D., before Christianity became the established religion of the Roman Empire.

The University of Chicago's Oriental Institute continued its excavations in Syria, working to uncover a 1500-year-old city of the Mittani.

Work of the Turkish Historic Society also was continued in central Anatolia, where relics of the Bronze and Copper Ages have been unearthed.

Traces of Non-Eskimo People above Arctic Circle

Dr. Froelich G. Rainey of the University of Alaska, leader of an expedition of the American Museum of Natural History, discovered a site in northern Alaska representing the earliest known culture along the Arctic coast. The discovery indicates that a race of non-Eskimo people lived 100 miles above the Arctic Circle perhaps several thousand years ago. The region is now the home of Eskimos (illustration, inside cover), whose ancestors succeeded the non-Eskimo people.

An expedition sponsored by the Museum of the American Indian (Heye Foundation) discovered evidence of gold, silver, platinum, and oil production deep in Indian-inhabited jungles of Mosquitia Territory, Honduras. The expedition also reported that its researches gave proof of a thriving agricultural civilization of the Chorotegans which was probably contemporary with that of the Maya. Sculptured idols, stone household utensils, a six-toned flute, and primitive razor blades were found by the expedition.

In the Badlands region of South Dakota, members of an expedition sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the South Dakota State School of Mines

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to Greece. In 1854 it was estimated that Albanians comprised one-fifth of Greece's population. In the Greek Revolution (1821-1833) many leaders of the Greeks were Albanians, including the dare-devil Admiral Miaoulis and the celebrated woman naval commander, Bubulina.

A general revolt was finally successful, in 1912, in forcing the Turks to grant Albania autonomy. Supported by Italy and Austria-Hungary, Ismail Kemal Vlora proclaimed Albanian independence at Valona on November 28, 1912.

William of Wied, the German prince selected by its backers to accept the crown of Albania, was forced, by revolts and intrigue after the outbreak of the World War, to retire from his adopted realm after a reign of only six months. Italian troops occupied Valona in 1914, and the French occupied most of southern Albania.

From June, 1917, when Albania's independence under Italian protection was declared, until the present day, the history of Albania is an account of Italy's growing influence in the small, rough Balkan land. Albania was voted a republic in January, 1925, and the following month Ahmed Bey Zogu was elected president. Italy helped the struggling nation with loans. The republic was short-lived; in September, 1928, Zogu was proclaimed King Zog of Albania. He fled in April, 1939, when Italy's legions invaded his country. On April 12, the Albanian Assembly offered the crown to Italy's King Victor Emmanuel III.

Note: See also "Europe's Newest Kingdom," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, February, 1931, and in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "Albania Only Forty-Seven Miles from Italy," April 24, 1939; and "Albania at the Age of Twenty-Five," December 20, 1937.

Albania's battlefields may be located on The Society's Map of Central Europe and the Mediterranean, copies of which are available at 50¢ (paper) and 75¢ (linen).

Bulletin No. 1, January 13, 1941.

Photograph by Melville Chater

THE "PARIS" OF ALBANIAN FASHIONS FOR CENTURIES WAS CONSTANTINOPLE

From 330 A.D. until 1912, the center from which Albanian territory was governed was nominally, at least, Constantinople—first the eastern capital of the Roman Empire and later the Turkish capital. In Scutari, in northern Albania near the Yugoslavian border, Turkish styles of dress lingered for decades. The "dress bazaar" there, photographed in times of peace, showed no dresses to its women shoppers, but lengths of cloth for their enveloping veils and their voluminous trousers which often required ten yards of material.

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Italy's Arid Jubaland Raided by Former British Owners

JUBALAND, one of the many African territories which changed hands after the World War, was recently raided by British forces based in Kenya.

Formerly a part of British Kenya, Jubaland had been transferred to Italy in 1925 in recognition of the latter's participation in the war. As the southernmost stretch of lately consolidated Italian East Africa, it is now the Regione del Giuba in Italian spelling.

Monotonous, Inhospitable Country

Its name comes from the Juba (Giuba) River. Any association between Jubaland and the word "jubilant" is far from borne out, however, in geographic reality, for actually Jubaland is among the world's least appealing areas for human habitation.

Covering some 36,000 square miles of generally low, monotonous country, Jubaland is a malarial region of oppressive heat, few water holes, inhospitable thorn bush, and suspicious, often unfriendly natives (illustration, next page).

It is remote from the Italian motherland even by normal peacetime communications. In the present war, Italy is barred from sea access to Jubaland, and from the rest of her empire at the northeast corner of Africa by British control of her Mediterranean outlets at Gibraltar and the Suez Canal.

3,000 Miles from Homeland

By air the nearest point of Jubaland is close to three thousand miles away from home bases. In terms of average flying time, this means a trip of some 15 hours, including passage across the wide expanse of the hostile Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

Like many of the African semi-desert lands, Jubaland presents fertile stretches only along the river valleys and at infrequent and unreliable water holes. When a water hole fails, as it sometimes does in the dry season, the result may be the grim sight of bones of animals, and even of men, left to bleach under the blazing sun. The only year-round river is the Juba (Giuba), which, rising in Ethiopia on the north, marks the eastern boundary of the region.

Cattle-Rustling a Native Art

The majority of Jubaland's inhabitants (mostly Somali tribesmen, estimated to number about 130,000) are nomads, moving with their cattle, camels, goats, and sheep from place to place in search of what water and grazing land the season provides. Because of the scarcity of both, struggles are occasionally reported between different tribes, recalling the early cattle wars in the drier sections of the American West.

Moreover, while the Somalis are very fond of meat, they have a distaste for eating that of their own herds. In consequence, "rustling" is one of the fine arts in Jubaland. This "native art" continues to flourish, although it is dealt with as ruthlessly there as it was in the pioneer days of the "Wild West" of the United States. Some of the richer livestock owners have carved or burned their brand on utensils, wooden sleeping pillows, and firearms, as well as on their cattle.

Under Italian rule, a few roads have been built in the more fertile districts of the region, and irrigation projects (such as have been so successful in other arid

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excavated more than 175 specimens of fossil bones. Among important finds were the skull of a giant rhinoceros, the skull of a huge pig which in life measured fully eight feet from snout to tail, fossil bones of tapirs, of graceful three-toed horses, and of protoceras (related to deer and antelope), and a well-preserved fossil egg.

Five hundred types of fish specimens were collected from the Caribbean Sea by an expedition of the Field Museum of Natural History.

A buried city which may represent the southernmost advance of the Maya was discovered in western El Salvador by a Tulane University Expedition.

Although clouds blotted out the sun during most of the total eclipse of the sun on October 1, members of the National Geographic Society-National Bureau of Standards Expedition to Patos, Brazil, did not return empty-handed. The largest spectrogram yet made of the flash-spectrum of the sun was obtained; data on the times of contacts between sun's and moon's edges were assembled; and full information was recorded on the effect of darkness on the radio-reflecting layers of the upper atmosphere.

Six duiker antelopes; four chevrotains, or water deer, only four feet tall; a giant rat; a ratel, a badgerlike animal; two pygmy hippopotamuses; a monkey-eating eagle; and an array of reptiles and birds rare in American zoos—these were among the 300 zoological specimens brought back from West Africa by Dr. William M. Mann, Director of the National Zoological Park in Washington, D. C.

Guided by old manuscripts and records of Columbus's route across the Atlantic, an expedition headed by Prof. Samuel Elliott Morison, of the Harvard University Department of History, spent four months tracing parts of the route of the discoverer's ships, *Santa Maria, Niña,* and *Pinta.* According to Prof. Morison, the voyage proved that Columbus was a great seaman and navigator, since he was able to return to a place in the New World solely by dead reckoning.

Armand Denis and his wife, explorers and motion picture photographers, returned after a 10-month 25,000-mile expedition that took them to Western China, India, and Africa. Besides unique motion pictures of life among peoples visited, the explorers brought back a collection of wild animals including monkeys, tortoises, and cheetahs.

By means of a camera and floodlight designed to withstand pressures at considerable ocean depths, Maurice Ewing, under the joint sponsorship of the National Geographic Society and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, obtained photographic studies of the ocean bottom in Atlantic waters 200 miles southeast of Cape Cod. The photographs were made at depths varying from 180 to 2,700 feet.

The Lerner-American Museum of Natural History Expedition continued its three-year study of the habits and migration of swordfish and marlin in the waters off Peru and Chile. Francesca La Monte, leader of the expedition, reported that the breeding place of the fish still is a mystery, but hazarded the guess that they breed off Cuba.

The Soviet icebreaker *Syedoff,* after 27 months in the grip of Arctic ice, and after drifting nearer to the North Pole than any other ship—within 300 miles—returned to Murmansk, Russia, in January. The expedition blasted the theory of the existence of "Sannikov Land" when the ship drifted over its supposed site. Ocean depths were measured, and meteorological, hydrological, magnetic, and gravimetrical observations were made.

Captain Robert A. Bartlett, veteran Arctic explorer, in his schooner *Morrissey* made his 14th trip northward, reaching a point 578 miles from the North Pole. The expedition brought back several live walrus pups and sea specimens including rare examples of sand, stone, fish, and birds for American museums and zoos.

Note: See also "Great Stone Faces of Mexico," *National Geographic Magazine,* September, 1940; "Greenland from 1898 to Now," July, 1940; "Discovering the New World's Oldest Dated Work of Man," August, 1939; and "Exploring Frozen Fragments of American History," May, 1939.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "Badlands of South Dakota Give Up Rare Fossil Bones," November 18, 1940; "Expedition Finds Five Huge Carved Heads in Mexico," April 15, 1940; "Expedition To Seek Bones of American Rhinoceros," March 18, 1940, and "Earliest Recorded Date Known in New World Encourages Explorers," January 15, 1940.

Bulletin No. 2, January 13, 1941.

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Danube Delta Tense as Russo-German Pressure Point

THE Danube Commission's adjournment at the end of last year, after several months of deliberation, left unsettled the question of international control over the three mouths by which the meandering Danube River reaches its final outlets about halfway along Romania's Black Sea coast. The reports that the Russian member of the Commission had resigned highlighted the overlapping interests of Germany and the U.S.S.R. in the mouths of the Danube, one of which the Russians in Bessarabia dominate, another of which the Germans depend upon for supplies shipped through the Black Sea to Germany.

Since German troops moved into Romania late in 1940, the ample delta of the Danube has been the southeasternmost end of the long frontier between the German and the Russian spheres of interest in eastern Europe.

Middle Channel Most Important to Shipping

The vast Danube Delta spreads fanlike to the sea over an area about the size of Delaware. It begins some 50 airline miles inland at the point where the main river splits into three channels, the Chilia-Noua, Sulina, and Sfantu Gheorghe (St. George).

Sulina, middle and deepest channel, which has been made navigable through decades of effort by an international commission, is the one carrying the bulk of Danubian shipping. Chilia-Noua, the northernmost of the Danube mouths, marks the southern boundary of Bessarabia, the war-won Romanian province recovered by Soviet Russia last year. The largest town of this region is Vâlcov (illustration, next page).

The marshy, muddy flats through which these three channels wind represent extraordinary geographic and biological variety. Floating islands, salt- and fresh-water lakes, bars and shoals appear and disappear almost magically in one section or another of the delta, as innumerable streams cut their way through the soft expanse of ever-growing silt deposits.

Source of Caviar for Distant Banquets

From these natural channels and from artificially made rivers come thousands of tons of fish annually, including blue mackerel, salmon, pike, carp, and sturgeon. The latter supplies most of Romania's caviar exports.

When the waters recede, leaving dry but fertile land, many of the fishermen take to part-time farming to add to their meager incomes.

Vegetation is everywhere luxuriant, with dozens of varieties of reeds which serve in Romanian homes for furniture and fuel, for fish traps and baby carriages, and even as thatch for the crude houses.

Water fowl—pelicans and ducks, plover, wild geese, herons, and storks—are so abundant in this area as to make it in normal peacetime a paradise for naturalists and hunters.

Note: Additional information about the Danube Delta may be found in "Caviar Fishermen of Romania," *National Geographic Magazine*, March, 1940; "Spell of Romania," April, 1934; and "The Danube, Highway of Races," December, 1929.

The three mouths of the Danube may be found on The Society's Map of Central Europe and the Mediterranean. Copies of this map are available at 50¢ (paper) and 75¢ (linen). A folder describing this and other maps, as well as pictures and Nature books published by The Society, will be sent upon request.

Bulletin No. 4, January 13, 1941.

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parts of Africa) have been planned even for this remote section of the modern Roman empire.

Note: Territory adjoining Jubaland, and similar to it, is described in "When a Drought Blights Africa," *National Geographic Magazine*, April, 1929.

Jubaland may be located on The Society's Map of Africa, copies of which are available at 50¢ (paper) and 75¢ (linen). Send for a folder describing this and other maps, as well as the pictures and Nature books published by The Society.

Bulletin No. 3, January 13, 1941.

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Photograph by Capt. Alexander T. Curle

THE JUBALANDER GOING TO MARKET MUST CARRY MORE WATER THAN WARES

The Gurreh tribesmen, who live along the northern half of the Kenya-Jubaland frontier, carry gums and myrrh to market in goatskin bags (piled on the donkey's back). The bulk of their load, however, usually consists of water. This traveler has hung two water containers on the donkey's right side—a woven fiber one in the rear decorated with large white beads, and a larger one in front carved from a single block of wood. With a capacity of 8 to 10 gallons of water, the latter is carried in a fiber harness, with the big rounded lid fastened on with rope. Armed only with a spear, the Gurreh crosses an arid landscape subject to raids from hostile tribesmen from either side of the frontier and formerly from Ethiopia to the north as well. While he travels, he placidly cleans his teeth with the end of a stick. His tribe, although of Galla origin, have adopted the customs and Moslem religion of their Somali neighbors in Italian Somaliland, of which Jubaland forms the western frontier region.

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Kings and Buddhas Complicate Indo-China's Thailand Border

THE rulers of Siam (Thailand) and Indo-China were already swapping invasion threats, as they have been doing in months just past, before the Normans invaded England. Their recent severing of diplomatic relations is the latest step in a history of ages-old rivalry, now flaring again over territorial claims against half of France's richest domain in the Orient.

Thailand's claims against French Indo-China's two western divisions, Laos and Cambodia, go back to a most enigmatic period of mankind's history. Legends obscure the actual events which took place then, in the tropical Asiatic setting of seven-tiered umbrellas, slave girls dancing in gold-embroidered brocade, temples carved with three-headed elephants, and nations warring for possession of a sacred statue of transparent green jade. Siamese battles over this territory may have destroyed the rich Cambodian civilization surrounding Angkor Wat, the five-towered temple whose abandonment to the Indo-Chinese jungle baffles historians as one of the world's great unsolved mysteries (illustration, next page).

Ceremonial Parasols, Dancing Girls, and Elephants Are "Props" in Drama

Native kings still reign in both Laos and Cambodia, which are protectorates—not colonies—of France. Cambodia, whose King Sisowathmonivong traces his dynasty back through legend to 200 A. D., became a protectorate in 1863. Laos, where the king of Luang-Prabang perpetuates the earlier Lang-Xang ("Millions of Elephants") nation, paid tribute to Siam until conquered by the French in 1893.

For fourteen centuries the Indo-Chinese peninsula was unvisited by and unknown to any Europeans. During that time the kings of Cambodia and those of Siam competed for the western two-thirds of the peninsula. Wealthy kings of the Cambodian (or Khmer) people, around the 9th century A. D., ruled the lower basin of the Mekong, one of Asia's mightiest rivers, together with Siam's valley of the Menam to the west, at whose mouth Siam's capital now stands. These Khmer potentates, who wore their hair tucked up in a top-knot and had their palms and feet dyed red, showed off their wealth with displays of gold-handled parasols and elephants with gold-encrusted tusks. They built, without mortar, the remarkable sandstone temples and palaces in the medieval Khmer capital, Angkor Thom.

French Protection Accepted by Cambodia in 1863

In the 13th century, about the time that the first English king was buried in state in Westminster Abbey, Siamese princes declared their independence of Cambodia, and set up on the west the rival kingdom of the Thai people. Then armies of the expanding Thai invaded Cambodia repeatedly, once besieging Angkor Thom for more than a year towards the end of the 14th century and capturing an estimated 90,000 prisoners. These raids from Siam are a possible explanation for the Cambodian kings' abandoning Angkor Thom to the Thai and the jungle.

French missionaries penetrating Cambodia during the 17th century reported the country's wealth to such good effect that in 1863 King Norodom accepted French protection. In 1907 Cambodia acquired from Siam by treaty the three provinces of Battambang, Sisophon, and Siemreap, the last of which contains the ruins of Angkor. This was the third time in as many centuries that the border territory had changed hands.

The traces that history's changes and interchanges have left include a similar style of dress for both men and women in Cambodia and Siam, and many Cam-

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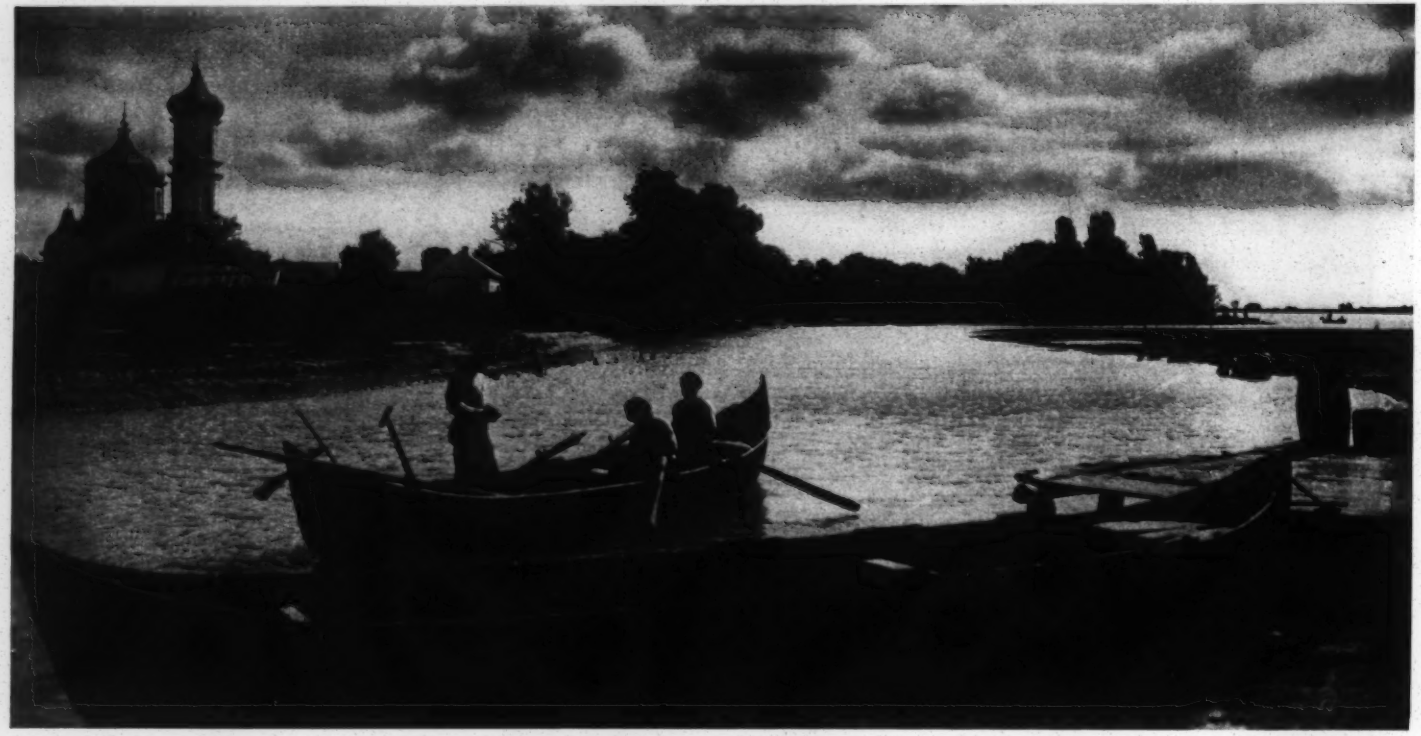

Photograph by Photo-Presse

VÂLCOV IS SOMETIMES ON THE DANUBE, SOMETIMES UNDER IT

While little shipping passes through the willow-bordered northern channel of the Danube, Chilia-Noua, it is nevertheless of considerable importance because of its fisheries. The entire town of Vâlcov, with 8,000 inhabitants, depends on fishing for a living, most of the fishermen being Lipovans of Russian ancestry. The onion-shaped cupolas of the cathedral towers also show Russian influence, remaining from Russian rule between 1877, when the Turks were driven out by Russians, and 1918, when the region was included within Romanian boundaries. Troops from the U.S.S.R. annexed Bessarabia—and Vâlcov—again in the fall of 1940. With the Danube normally almost as high as the muddy banks of the shore, Vâlcov's clay houses and wooden bridges are frequently covered in times of flood.

bodian words, sometimes estimated at 40 per cent, in the Siamese vocabulary.

The territory of the 14 provinces of Cambodia which Thailand would like to share again consists of some 67,550 square miles adjoining Siam on the southeast, nearly as large as the State of Washington, with more than three million inhabitants. It produces most of Indo-China's yield of pepper, much of the rice and fish, the best cotton, some of the rubber and kapok, and considerable jet, rubies, and sapphires. The great overflow lake of Tonlé Sap is one of the world's richest inland fishing grounds. Sticklac from Cambodia's jungle is a source of shellac.

The larger protectorate of Laos stretches along the Thailand-Indo-China frontier for most of its north-south extent. It includes ten provinces with a total area exceeding that of Utah, governed from the capital city of Vientiane under a complex administration of a king, a military governor, and assorted French resident officials. Its population is more than a million.

The old kingdom of the Laos region, whose people are racial brothers of the Thai of Siam, broke up under pressure of Siamese invasions in the 17th century. The remnant kingdom of Luang-Prabang submitted less than a century ago, after Siamese invaders kidnapped the sacred statue, the so-called "Emerald" Buddha two feet high, which was believed to guard the kingdom from harm. Laos was signed over to French Indo-China by Siam in treaties between 1893 and 1904. The protectorate yields teak wood and tin in addition to rice, tobacco, and quantities of cardamom and sticklac.

Note: See also "By Motor Trail Across French Indo-China," *National Geographic Magazine*, October, 1935; "'Land of the Free' in Asia," May, 1934; "Along the Old Mandarin Road of Indo-China," September, 1931; "Four Faces of Siva," September, 1928; "Warfare of the Jungle Folk," February, 1928.

Bulletin No. 5, January 13, 1941.

Photograph by Mrs. Emma L. Rose

"STONE TAPESTRIES" ARE THE ONLY RECORDS OF A LOST KHMER CIVILIZATION

Like a tapestry of stone, the remarkably sculptured walls of Angkor Wat in Cambodia show a panorama of the rich Khmer civilization, which reached its peak in the city of Angkor Thom and then vanished. Elephants decorated with embroideries and tassels carried lords of the kingdom on hunting expeditions into the jungle, and comprised the "tank corps" for their war raids. Scientists estimate that Angkor Thom had a metropolitan area larger than that of the Rome of Augustus, and was capital of a kingdom of possibly thirty million people. The pyramidal temple of Angkor Wat, the most imposing structure of the Khmers' ghost city, has an area a quarter-mile square, and a façade five times as wide as that of the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris.